

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

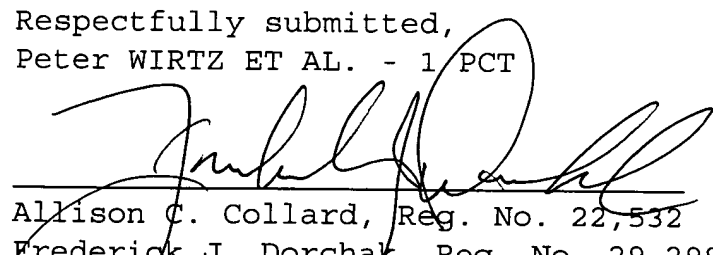
The claims are 17-23 and 29-33 with claims 24-27 having been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as directed to a non-elected invention. Claim 16 has been cancelled in favor of new claim 29, and claims 17-23 have been amended to improve their form. New claims 30-32 have been added directed to subject matter previously appearing in claims 16, 22 and 23, respectively, and claim 28 has been cancelled in favor of new claim 33. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 16-23 and 28 were rejected to because of certain informalities set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 16-23 and 28 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite with respect to what the "capillaries" are that are referred to in claim 16. In response, Applicants have cancelled claim 16 in favor of new claim 29, have amended claims 17-23 to improve their form, have added new claims 30-32 directed to subject matter previously appearing in claims 16, 22 and 23, respectively, and have cancelled claim 28 in favor of new claim 33. As requested by the Examiner, the words "characterised in that" have been removed from the claims and the

word -fibers- is being used in place of "capillaries" in new claim 29 for clarification purposes. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments overcome the informalities raised by the Examiner and that all currently pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections on these grounds be withdrawn.

In summary, claims 17-23 have been amended, claims 16 and 28 have been cancelled, and new claims 29-33 have been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

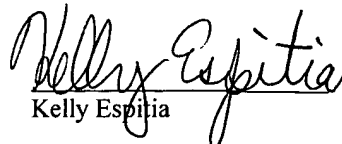
Respectfully submitted,
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